

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~ameliorating symptoms of a condition associated with inhibiting~~ inflammation, said method comprising:

identifying a subject having symptoms of a condition associated with chronic inflammation; and

reducing in said subject the level or activity of the ~~NF-HEV nuclear factor high endothelial venule (NF-HEV) polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof, thereby ameliorating symptoms of a condition associated with inflammation inhibiting the inflammatory response in endothelial cells of said subject~~

wherein said reducing comprises reducing the expression of a nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:1 by administering to said subject an siRNA complementary to at least a portion of SEQ ID NO:1 in an amount effective to reduce the expression of NF-HEV polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO: 1.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein the level or activity of said NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof is reduced by administering a nucleic acid to said subject.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein reducing the level or activity of said NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof modulates the level or activity of a pro-inflammatory chemokine.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Original) The method of Claim 26, wherein the level or activity of said pro-inflammatory chemokine is reduced.

29-126. (Cancelled)

127. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein said NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof comprises the sequence of amino acids 1-65 of SEQ ID NO: 4 and said siRNA is targeted against the portion of the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:1 that encodes amino acids 1-65 of SEQ ID NO:4.

128-129. (Cancelled)

130. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein said inflammation in said subject is inflammation associated with rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease or inflammatory bowel disorder.